

NAA NEWS

National Aeronautic Association



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2001

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UNMANNED GLOBAL HAWK RECEIVES COLLIER AWARD

ARLINGTON, VA.--A fully autonomous unmanned aerial vehicle for long-range reconnaissance and surveillance has been selected as the year's greatest achievement in aeronautics and its makers will receive the Collier Trophy awarded by the National Aeronautic Association.

The Global Hawk is a product of the Northrop Grumman Corporation, and the Global Hawk Team, including Rolls-Royce, Raytheon Company, L-3 Communications, the United States Air Force and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). It performs high altitude, long endurance, and hazardous missions without putting pilots at risk.

In operations with the U.S. Air Force, and the U. S. Navy and NATO, the Global Hawk has demonstrated fully autonomous taxi, takeoff, in-flight, and landing operations. Although unmanned, the Global Hawk has met safety criteria of the Federal Aviation Administration that permits it to fly in air traffic controlled airspace.

Its long-range capability permits it to fly un-refueled farther and remain on station longer than any other air vehicle. It can be deployed from the continental United States to a theater of operation without having to be shipped or refueled in that theater. On a one-way ferry mission, the Global Hawk can reach more than halfway around the earth's surface. Its cloud-penetrating, Synthetic Aperture Radar/Ground Moving Target Indicator, Electro-Optical and Infrared sensors can image an area the size of Illinois (40,000 square miles) in just 24 hours.

Northrop Grumman says its use of off-the-shelf hardware, software and systems substantially reduced development time and costs, achieving a fully autonomous flight only 32 months from go-ahead.

The Collier Trophy is awarded annually for the greatest achievement in aeronautics in America, with respect to improving performance, efficiency, or safety of air or space vehicles. It is named for Robert Collier, prominent publisher, who was the first person to buy an airplane from the Wright brothers for personal use. He was an early president of the Aero Club of America and commissioned the trophy in 1911. The 525-pound bronze trophy is on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC.

Don Koranda, president of National Aeronautic Association, will present the award to Northrop Grumman and the Industry Team at the Association's annual Collier Award dinner May 8, 2001 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, VA. NAA is the nation's oldest aviation organization, tracing its roots to the Aero Club of America, which was founded in 1905.

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NOTE to editors: More information about NAA and the Collier Trophy is available at NAA's web site: www.naa-usa.org